UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/771,734	01/29/2001	Narayanan Ganapathy	MS155740.1	1188

			EXAMINER
27195	7590	10/14/2004	HOFFMAN, BRANDON S

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ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2136	

DATE MAILED: 10/14/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

	Application No.	Applicant(s)
Office Action Summary	09/771,734	GANAPATHY, NARAYANAN
	Examiner	Art Unit
	Brandon Hoffman	2136

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE <u>3</u> MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.
- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on _____.
2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**.   2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) ☒ Claim(s) *1-34* is/are pending in the application.
    4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
6) ☒ Claim(s) *1-34* is/are rejected.
7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on <u>29 January 2001</u> is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
    Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
    Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
    a) ☐ All   b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
      1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
      2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
      3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
    * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
    Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
    Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Specification

1.   The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities:

* On page 11, line 24, "processes 52 and 98" should be –processes 52 and 100–.

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2.   The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that

form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

3.   <u>Claims 1, 2, 5-15, and 20-34</u> are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being

anticipated by <u>Bruno et al.</u> (U.S. Patent No. 6,604,123).

Regarding <u>claim 1</u>, <u>Bruno et al.</u> teaches a system to facilitate substantially secure

communication, comprising: a communication component operative to store an outgoing

message received directly from an associated process, the outgoing message including

a message key having a key value, an attribute being associated with the

communication component, the attribute having a selectable condition that is

inaccessible by the associated process; and a filter associated with the communication

component, the filter controlling sending the stored outgoing message from the

communication component based on the key value of the outgoing message and the

attribute condition (fig. 2, ref. num 222 and col. 5, line 30 through col. 6, line 33).

Regarding claim 2, Bruno et al. teaches wherein the communication component

further comprises at least one storage device operative to store messages (the

Examiner believes it to be inherent that there is a storage device).

Regarding claim 5, Bruno et al. teaches wherein the message key corresponds

to a key associated with another communication component that is associated with a

desired destination (col. 7, lines 23-54).

Regarding claim 6, Bruno et al. teaches wherein the message key is a multi-bit

field for storing data identifying a key associated with a destination communication

component (fig. 2, ref. num 212 and 222).

Regarding claim 7, Bruno et al. teaches wherein the filter is operative to prevent

sending the outgoing message from the communication component upon detecting an

invalid message key in the outgoing message (col. 7, lines 23-25).

Regarding claim 8, Bruno et al. teaches wherein key data having a range of at

least one key value is associated with the communication component, the key data

being inaccessible by the associated process, the filter controlling transmission of the

outgoing message based on the validation of the message key as a function of the

attribute condition and the range of at least one key value (fig. 2, ref. num 212 and 222

and col. 5, lines 33-55).

Regarding claim 9, Bruno et al. teaches wherein the filter employs the attribute to

define a valid range of at least one key value based on the at least one key value

associated with the communication component, such that the filter provides different

control in connection with a message having a message key within the valid range and

a message having a message key outside the valid range (col. 5, lines 30-37).

Regarding claim 10, Bruno et al. teaches wherein the key data identifies a

plurality of key values (col. 5, lines 49-55).

Regarding claim 11, Bruno et al. teaches wherein the filter is operative to permit

whether a message having a message key in the valid range is sent from the

communication component (col. 7, lines 25-54).

Regarding claim 12, Bruno et al. teaches a system to facilitate substantially

secure communication between at least two processes, comprising: a first queue

operative to store a request received directly from a first of the at least two processes

and, upon validation of the stored request, to send the stored request to a second of the

at least two processes, the stored request including a destination address and a key

having a key value; and an interface operative to validate the stored request based on

the key value of the stored request relative to at least one predetermined key value associated with the first queue, the at least one key value associated with the first queue being unavailable to the first process (fig. 2, ref. num 222 and col. 5, line 30 through col. 6, line 33).

Regarding claim 13, Bruno et al. teaches further comprising an attribute associated with the first queue, the attribute defining a valid range of key values based on the at least one key value associated with the first queue to control sending stored requests from the first queue (col. 5, lines 30-37).

Regarding claim 14, Bruno et al. teaches wherein the attribute has a selectable condition that is unavailable to the first process and the valid range of message keys varies as a function of the attribute condition and the at least one key value associated with the first queue (col. 5, lines 37-55).

Regarding claim 15, Bruno et al. teaches wherein the at least one key value associated with the first queue further comprises a plurality of key values associated with the first queue and unavailable to the first process (col. 5, lines 49-55).

Regarding claim 20, Bruno et al. teaches wherein the interface is operative to prevent sending the request from the first queue if the request includes an invalid key (col. 7, lines 23-25).

Regarding claims 21, 28, and 34, Bruno et al. teaches a

system/method/computer readable medium to facilitate substantially secure

communication between at least two user-level processes, comprising: storage means

for storing an outgoing message received from a first of the at least two processes, the

outgoing message including a message key associated with a destination, an attribute

being associated with the storage means, the attribute having a selectable condition

unavailable to user-level processes; and control means for controlling sending of the

stored outgoing message from the storage means based on the message key and the

attribute condition (fig. 2, ref. num 222 and col. 5, line 30 through col. 6, line 33).

Regarding claim 22, Bruno et al. teaches further comprising validation data

associated with the storage means and unavailable to user-level processes, the control

means controlling sending of the outgoing message based on the validation of the

message key as a function of the attribute and validation data (col. 5, lines 49-55).

Regarding claim 23, Bruno et al. teaches wherein the validation data comprises

at least one key value (col. 5, lines 33-37).

Regarding claim 24, Bruno et al. teaches wherein control means is operative to

control whether the stored message can be sent from the storage means based on the

message key relative to a valid range of key values, which varies as a function of the

attribute condition and the validation data (col. 7, lines 23-54).

Regarding <u>claims 25 and 29</u>, <u>Bruno et al.</u> teaches a system/computer readable medium to facilitate substantially secure communication between at least two user-level processes, comprising: storage means for storing a request received directly from a first of the at least two processes and, upon validation of the stored request, for sending the stored request to a second of the at least two processes, the stored request including a key having a key value; and validation means for validating the stored request based on the key value of the stored request relative to at least one predetermined key value associated with the storage means, the at least one key value associated with the storage means being unavailable to user-level processes (fig. 2, ref. num 222 and col. 5, line 30 through col. 6, line 33).

Regarding <u>claim 26</u>, <u>Bruno et al.</u> teaches further comprising an attribute associated with the storage means, the attribute defining a valid range of key values based on the at least one key value associated with the storage means, the validation means controlling sending stored requests from the storage means according to the valid range of key values (col. 5, lines 30-37).

Regarding <u>claim 27</u>, <u>Bruno et al.</u> teaches wherein the attribute has a selectable condition that is not available to user-level processes, the valid range of key values varying as a function of the attribute condition and the at least one key value associated with the storage means (col. 5, lines 37-55).

Regarding <u>claim 30</u>, <u>Bruno et al.</u> teaches a method to facilitate substantially

secure communication from a first user-level process in a system in which the first

process is operable to communicate directly with hardware, comprising: storing an

outgoing message received directly from the first process in an associated storage

device, the outgoing message including a message key having a key value; and

controlling sending of the stored message to a second process based on the value of

the message key relative to a predetermined at least one key value associated with the

storage device, the at least one key value associated with the storage device being

unavailable to the first process (fig. 2, ref. num 222 and col. 5, line 30 through col. 6,

line 33).

Regarding <u>claim 31</u>, <u>Bruno et al.</u> teaches further comprising associating an

attribute with the storage device that is operable to define a valid range of key values

based on the at least one key value associated with the storage device, and controlling

sending of the stored message from the storage device based on the message key

thereof and the defined valid range of key values (col. 5, lines 30-37).

Regarding <u>claim 32</u>, <u>Bruno et al.</u> teaches wherein the attribute has a selectable

condition not available to the first process, the valid range of key values varying as a

function of the attribute condition and the at least one key value associated with the

storage device (col. 5, lines 37-55).

Regarding claim 33, Bruno et al. teaches further comprising validating the

message key relative to the at least one key value associated with the storage device,

and, upon detecting an invalid message key, preventing the stored message from being

sent from the storage device (col. 7, lines 23-25).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4.   The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all

obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set
> forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and
> the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the
> invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains.
> Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

5.   Claims 3, 4, and 16-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable

over Bruno et al. (USPN '123) in view of Neal et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,766,467).

Regarding claim 3, Bruno et al. teaches all the limitations of claims 1 and 2,

above. However, Bruno et al. does not teach wherein the storage device further

comprises at least one queue operative to store messages being sent by the associated

process.

Neal et al. teaches wherein the storage device further comprises at least one

queue operative to store messages being sent by the associated process (fig. 6, ref.

num 620).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, at the time the

invention was made, to combine the storage device containing at least one queue to

store outgoing messages, as taught by Neal et al., with the system of Bruno et al. It

would have been obvious for such modifications because storage allows multiple

messages to be prepared for sending.

Regarding claim 4, the combination of Bruno et al. in view of Neal et al. teaches

wherein the at least one queue further comprises at least two queues, one of the at

least two queues being operative to store messages being sent by the associated

process and another of the at least two queues being operative to store messages

being sent to the associated process (see fig. 6, ref. num 624 and 626 of Neal et al.).

Regarding claim 16, Bruno et al. teaches all the limitations of claims 12-14,

above. However, Bruno et al. does not teach wherein the attribute is set to have one of

at least a first condition and a second condition.

Neal et al. teaches wherein the attribute is set to have one of at least a first

condition and a second condition (col. 9, line 45 through col. 10, line 34).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, at the time the

invention was made, to combine an attribute with at least two conditions, as taught by

Neal et al., with the system of Bruno et al. It would have been obvious for such

modifications because the two conditions provide a selection of either working or not working.

Regarding claims 17 and 19, the combination of Bruno et al. in view of Neal et al. teaches wherein the interface is operative to prevent the stored request from being sent from the first queue if the attribute condition has the [first/second] condition and the key has a value that agrees with the at least one key value associated with the first queue (see col. 7, lines 25-54 of Bruno et al., it doesn't matter what the attribute condition is, even though it is unavailable by the first process, as long as the keys agree, data is prevented from being sent).

Regarding claim 18, the combination of Bruno et al. in view of Neal et al. teaches wherein the interface is operative to permit the stored request from being sent from the first queue if the attribute condition has the first condition and the key has a value that disagrees with the at least one key value associated with the first queue (see col. 7, lines 25-54 of Bruno et al.).

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Brandon Hoffman whose telephone number is 703-305-4662. However, my new number will be 571-272-3863 after our move on October 25, 2004. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:30 - 5:00.
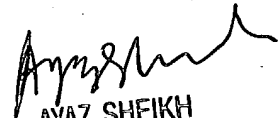
If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's

supervisor, Ayaz Sheikh can be reached on 571-272-3795. The fax phone number for

the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the

Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for

published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR.

Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only.

For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should

you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic

Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

BH

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